PRESS RELEASE

The Cleveland Museum of Art
Public Relations / 11150 East Blvd. / Cleveland, Ohio 44106 / 216 421-7340

FOR RELEASE ON RECEIPT

Twenty-One Contemporary Japanese Printmakers, an exhibition of sixty-three prints by some of the most creative Japanese printmakers working today, is on view now through November 11, 1979, at The Cleveland Museum of Art.

The Japanese have a long tradition of printmaking. This exhibition demonstrates their continued inventiveness in this medium and their mastery of a wide range of printing techniques, from etching and woodblock printing to lithography and screen printing and processes that make use of photographic techniques.

The small woodblock prints depicting the life and scenery of old Japan that first reached the West in the nineteenth century greatly influenced the work of Western artists, particularly the French impressionists. Then as Japan embraced Western technology and customs, her artists were in turn influenced by Western art. Now, as this exhibition clearly shows, many Japanese artists are interested in the same themes and work in styles similar to those of European and American artists. Indeed, if the prints in this exhibition had no labels, they could easily be mistaken for the works of avant garde Western printmakers.

This is not surprising, since many of the printmakers shown here have studied and worked in Europe and America. Almost all of them exhibit in international print competitions and most have won prizes for their work.

(more)

Each artist is represented by three prints, all executed within the last three years. Only a few of these are abstract compositions. Most of the prints reflect humanistic concerns and the recent movement toward realism in art.

The exhibition was organized by the Department of Prints and Drawings of The Cleveland Museum of Art. Museum director Sherman E. Lee selected the prints with the assistance of Yuji Abe, president of the Japanese Print Dealers Association, Tokyo. An exhibition catalogue containing brief biographies of the artists and illustrations of their work will be available at the Museum's Sales Desk on October 9.

# # #

9/79

For more information or photographs please contact Ann Edwards, Public Relations, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106. 216-421-7340.